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**Sent:** 4/1/2019 9:50:59 AM  
**To:** Beck, Nancy [Beck.Nancy@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Morning Energy, presented by Chevron: Judge delivers blow to Arctic drilling — Climate change on the House agenda — Cabinet officials hit the Hill

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# MORNINGENERGY

04/01/2019 05:49 AM EDT

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## QUICK FIX

— **A federal judge handed the Trump administration** a major blow to its "energy dominance" agenda by declaring President Donald Trump's move to open up the Arctic to oil and gas drilling unlawful. The decision could have far-reaching implications for other lawsuits.

— **Climate change is on the agenda in the House this week**, with hearings on everything from the threat to national security to youth climate activism.

— **EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler and Energy Secretary Rick Perry** will defend the Trump administration's fiscal 2020 budget request while appearing across the Capitol.

**\*\* A message from Chevron:** Chevron is celebrating the importance of role models in inspiring young women to pursue STEM education and careers. [Watch our film](#) to see how. **\*\***

**GOOD MORNING! IT'S MONDAY.** I'm your host, Kelsey Tamborrino. American Gas Association's George Lowe was first to correctly identify Strom Thurmond as the first person

elected to the Senate as a write-in candidate in the general election. Today's trivia question, in honor of April Fools' Day: What is the first known reference to April Fools' in literature? Send your tips, energy gossip and comments to [ktamborrino@politico.com](mailto:ktamborrino@politico.com). Follow us on Twitter [@kelseytam](https://twitter.com/kelseytam), [@Morning\\_Energy](https://twitter.com/Morning_Energy) and [@POLITICOPro](https://twitter.com/POLITICOPro).

## DRIVING THE DAY

**JUDGE DELIVERS BLOW TO ARCTIC DRILLING:** A federal court in Alaska blocked the Trump administration's move to undo an Obama-era ban on oil and gas leasing in the Arctic Ocean and specific parts of the Atlantic Ocean, restoring protections in both areas.

**U.S. District Court Judge Sharon Gleason late Friday threw out** Trump's executive order from April 2017, declaring it unlawful, "as it exceeded the president's authority." The Trump executive order sought to revoke the Obama administration's move to put large portions of the Chukchi Sea in the Arctic and dozens of underwater canyons off the East Coast permanently off limits for drilling.

**The decision immediately reinstates the Obama-era drilling ban**, which "will remain in full force and effect unless and until revoked by Congress," the judge ruled, a major blow to the president's push to expand offshore drilling.

**The case could provide fodder** in lawsuits opposing the Trump administration's rollback of protections for national monuments. It also prevents the administration from holding six offshore lease sales it proposed for the Arctic Ocean starting as early as this year, according to the League of Conservation Voters, the lead plaintiff in the case.

**The oil industry appeared to take the loss in stride**, with a spokesperson for the American Petroleum Institute saying "[w]hile we disagree with the decision, our nation still has a significant opportunity before us in the development of the next offshore leasing plan to truly embrace our nation's energy potential and ensure American consumers and businesses continue to benefit from U.S. energy leadership."

**Senate Energy Chairman Lisa Murkowski in her own statement** said she "strongly" disagreed with the ruling, which she said asserts that presidents "can bind their successors and only Congress can overturn those decisions."

**Murkowski continued:** "That is not the correct interpretation of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act and could have catastrophic impacts for offshore development, which creates jobs, generates revenues, and strengthens our national security. I expect this decision to be

appealed and ultimately overturned — if not by the Ninth Circuit, then by the Supreme Court."

**RELATED:** The same judge on Friday also said former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke made "serious errors" when he reversed an Obama-era decision not to build an emergency access road through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska, as Pro's Alex Guillén reports [here](#).

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## **ON THE HILL**

**CLIMATE CHANGE IN FOCUS:** Rep. [Kathy Castor](#)'s Select Committee on the Climate Crisis will hold its [first official hearing](#) this week on "generation climate." Castor said last week she hoped Republicans would come to the table to back efforts to counter climate change, as Pro's Anthony Adragna [reported](#), but it remains to be seen what kind of solutions those will be.

### **Other climate change hearings this week:**

— **The House Foreign Affairs committee** will hold a [hearing](#) Tuesday concerning the impacts of climate change on national security, with testimony from Dennis McGinn, former assistant secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations and Environment, and Sherri Goodman, former deputy undersecretary of Defense for Environmental Security.

— **The House Energy and Commerce Committee's Environment and Climate Change panel** has planned a [hearing](#) on "Lessons from Across the Nation: State and Local Action to Combat Climate Change." Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, a Democratic presidential contender, will testify during the first panel.

**CABINET OFFICIALS HIT THE HILL:** EPA's Andrew Wheeler will hit the Hill Tuesday and Wednesday for two hearings on the president's fiscal 2020 budget request for his agency.

**Wheeler will appear** before the House Appropriations Interior-Environment Subcommittee [on Tuesday](#), and before the Senate Appropriations Interior-Environment Subcommittee [on](#)

Wednesday. The Trump administration's budget requests just \$6.1 billion for EPA — a 31 percent reduction over this year's enacted funding of \$8.8 billion.

**Wheeler won't be alone Tuesday:** Energy Secretary Rick Perry will also be on the Hill, continuing his own budget blitz and appearing before the Senate Energy Committee.

**WYDEN CALLS FOR BERNHARDT INVESTIGATION:** Democratic Sen. Ron Wyden is continuing to take aim at acting Interior chief David Bernhardt after a report alleged Bernhardt intervened in 2017 to block a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service analysis on the pesticides malathion and chlorpyrifos that showed they jeopardized more than 1,200 endangered species.

**Wyden — who blasted Bernhardt** as "just another corrupt official" during last week's confirmation hearing — wrote to Interior's Office of the Inspector General and called for an investigation into the allegations. "I am deeply troubled by what appears to be a political appointee meddling in the scientific process at USFWS in its analysis of toxic pesticides and their effect on the environment and hundreds of endangered species," Wyden wrote in the letter.

**TAX TALK:** Colorado Democratic Sen. Michael Bennet sent a letter Friday to congressional leaders urging them to work together to pass a tax extenders package as soon as possible. "It's time to end the dysfunction in Washington, do what is right for American companies and the climate, and pass energy tax extenders before it is too late," Bennet said in a tweet.

## BEYOND THE BELTWAY

**CALIFORNIA GREENS' ROCKY FIRST MEETING:** California environmental justice groups are sensing an opportunity to take their movement national as part of the ongoing discussion on a Green New Deal, but some say they're discouraged after initial talks in Washington this month, Pro California's Debra Kahn reports.

**After a three-day meeting convened by New Consensus**, a nonprofit affiliated with Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, California activists came away feeling that the 60-odd academics, think tank members and "front line" community organizers were receptive to their ideas, Debra writes. But the group was also mired in years-old debates that California has moved beyond, according to Miya Yoshitani, executive director of the Oakland-based Asian Pacific Environmental Network, such as around the use of nuclear power and natural gas — energy sources that many California environmentalists abandoned long ago.

**"My take on some of the specific policy questions** being posed at this meeting is that people from New Consensus are very 'green' — meaning they are really new to this arena," Yoshitani said in an email. "They are trying to understand some of the questions that seem to be debates in the mainstream about climate policy, without knowing how these policy debates have been largely settled in climate justice circles." [Read more.](#)

**DISPATCHES FROM FLORIDA:** Trump toured Lake Okeechobee on Friday, where he declared the lake had a "lot of problems" and that the dike-strengthening project around its shore "wasn't properly funded for years."

**"This project was dying until we got involved,"** Trump told reporters. The trip comes after state officials earlier this month criticized the \$63 million Trump requested in the fiscal 2019-20 federal budget for Everglades restoration downstream from Lake Okeechobee as falling short of \$200 million that officials said was needed. More from POLITICO's Bruce Ritchie in Tallahassee [here](#).

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## THE GRID

— "Polis withdraws request to EPA for more time to bring Colorado into compliance with federal air-quality standards," [Denver Post](#).

— "The Middle East's authoritarians have come for conservationists," [The Atlantic](#).

- "A Texan's big bet on a fossil-fuel future for California," The New York Times.
- "Disputed oil, gas lease sale brings in \$15M," Associated Press.
- "A judge wants to control PG&E's dividends until it reduces risk of fires," The Wall Street Journal.

## HAPPENING THIS WEEK

### MONDAY

Noon — Environmental and Energy Study Institute, the Business Council for Sustainable Energy and Bloomberg New Energy Finance briefing on "2019 Sustainable Energy in America Factbook," 2322 Rayburn.

1 p.m. — National Hydropower Association holds the 2019 Waterpower Week in Washington, 901 Massachusetts Ave. NW.

3:30 p.m. — George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs discussion on "Energy and Sustainability in Egypt," 1957 E St. NW.

### TUESDAY

9 a.m. — The Atlantic Council discussion on a new report, "Dealing with the Offshore Economy," 1030 15th St. NW.

9:45 a.m. — House Appropriations Energy-Water Development Subcommittee hearing on "Budget: Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration," 2362-B Rayburn.

10 a.m. — Senate Environment and Public Works Committee hearing on "Oversight of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission," 406 Dirksen.

10 a.m. — Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing to "Examine the President's FY 2020 Budget Request for DOE," 366 Dirksen.

10 a.m. — House Energy and Commerce Environment and Climate Change Subcommittee hearing on "Lessons from Across the Nation: State and Local Action to Combat Climate Change," 2123 Rayburn.

10 a.m. — House Appropriations Interior-Environment Subcommittee hearing on "Budget: Environmental Protection Agency," 2359 Rayburn.

10 a.m. — House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on "How Climate Change Threatens National Security," 2172 Rayburn.

10 a.m. — House Natural Resources Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee legislative hearing on "Protecting Coastal Communities from Offshore Drilling," 1334 Longworth.

10 a.m. — House Science Committee hearing on "A Review of the NASA FY 2020 Budget Request," 2318 Rayburn.

10 a.m. — House Transportation Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee hearing on "Pipeline Safety: Reviewing the Status of Mandates and Examining Additional Safety Needs," HVC-210.

10 a.m. — House Natural Resources Water, Oceans and Wildlife Subcommittee hearing on "WOW 101: The State of Western Water Infrastructure and Innovation," 1324 Longworth.

Noon — Johns Hopkins University Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies discussion on "Energy Efficiency in Emerging Markets: Applying the Sustainable Energy Utility Model in Medellin," 1717 Massachusetts Ave. NW.

2 p.m. — House Natural Resources National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands Subcommittee legislative hearing on various bills, 1324 Longworth.

## **WEDNESDAY**

9 a.m. — House Natural Resources National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands Subcommittee hearing on "Examining the Spending Priorities and Mission of the National Park Service," 1324 Longworth.

9 a.m. — Senate Appropriations Interior-Environment Subcommittee hearing on the proposed budget estimates and justification for FY 2020 for EPA, 124 Dirksen.

Noon — Women's Council on Energy and the Environment discussion on "Marine Mammal Protection in an Era of Expanded Ocean Development," 1320 19th St. NW.

Noon — Advanced Bioeconomy Leadership Conference begins, 1127 Connecticut Ave. NW.

Noon — The East-West Center in Washington seminar on "The Indo-Pacific Strategy and Opportunities for U.S.-Japan Energy Collaboration," 1819 L St. NW.

1 p.m. — House Appropriations Interior-Environment hearing on "Budget: National Parks Service, Fish and Wildlife Services, and U.S. Geological Survey," 2008 Rayburn.

1:45 p.m. — House Appropriations Energy-Water Development hearing on "Budget: Science, Energy, and Environmental Management Programs," 2362-B Rayburn.

2:30 p.m. — Energy Department and ClearPath "Atomic Wings" briefing, G50 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. — Senate Appropriations Energy and Water Development Subcommittee hearing on the proposed budget estimates and justification for FY 2020 for the National Nuclear Security Administration, 138 Dirksen.

3 p.m. — WIRES Group briefing on "The Coming Electrification of the North American Economy: Why We Need a Robust Transmission Grid," 1539 Longworth.

## **THURSDAY**

8:30 a.m. — The Atlantic Council discussion on "Ecology Meets Geopolitics: Water Security in Himalayan Asia," 1030 15th St. NW.

9 a.m. — House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis hearing on "Generation Climate: Young Leaders Urge Climate Action Now," Room TBA.

9:30 a.m. — House Appropriations Interior-Environment Subcommittee hearing on "Budget: Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement," 2008 Rayburn.

10 a.m. — House Natural Resources Committee hearing on H.R. 1904 (116), the "Indian Water Rights Settlement Extension Act," 1324 Longworth.

3 p.m. — American Council on Renewable Energy briefing on "Current Trends in the Renewable Energy and Energy Storage Industries, and Key Public Policy Issues Facing the 116th Congress," 112 Cannon.

4:30 p.m. — The Bipartisan Policy Center and the American Energy Innovation Council showcase of ARPA-E funded technologies, 2168 Rayburn.

## **FRIDAY**



8:45 a.m. — EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler delivers remarks at the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association's Public Policy Show, 801 Mount Vernon Pl. NW.

12:30 p.m. — Johns Hopkins University Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies discussion on "Integrating Air Quality, Water and Climate Concerns into China's Energy Strategy," 1619 Massachusetts Ave. NW.

1 p.m. — Center for Strategic and International Studies' Project on Nuclear Issues discussion on "Challenges in Nuclear Verification," 1616 Rhode Island Ave. NW.

**THAT'S ALL FOR ME!**

**\*\* A message from Chevron:** Women make up nearly half of the U.S. workforce yet hold about 25% of STEM jobs. Chevron recognizes that with the help of role models more young women could pursue STEM education and careers. Visit [ThankYourRoleModel.com](http://ThankYourRoleModel.com) and take 15 seconds to thank the role model who inspired you. \*\*

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